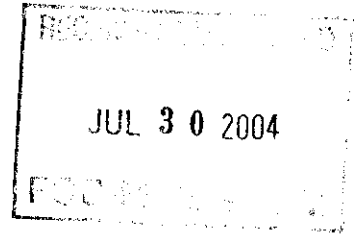




RURAL TELEPHONE SERVICE CO., INC.

Your One Stop Communications, Information and Entertainment Source

July 29, 2004



Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
9300 E. Hampton Dr.
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

RE: Safety Net Additive Support Qualification, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Secretary:

Please accept this as written notice that Rural Telephone Service Company, Inc., Study Area Code 411826, is seeking to qualify for safety net additive support, pursuant to Section 36.605 of the Commission's rules. This qualification is based on an increase of at least 14% in per loop telecommunications plant in service (TPIS) between 2002 and 2003. Written notice is simultaneously being provided to Ms. Irene Flannery of the Universal Service Administrative Company. Further, this notice is being provided in conjunction with the carriers' annual data submission to the National Exchange Carrier Association.

Please direct all correspondence to this filing to the undersigned. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rhonda S. Goddard
Chief Operating Officer

RSG/amv

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